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REMARKS

This amendment is filed in connection with a Request for Continued Examination and in response to the final Official Action mailed June 9, 2005. Applicant hereby requests entry of the present amendment and Continued Examination based on entry of the amendment. Consequently, reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein. Claim 7 has been cancelled. No new claims are added. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-29 are currently pending for action.

Prior Art:

In the outstanding final Office Action, claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 21 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,819,110 to Motoyama ("Motoyama"). This amendment is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites

A computer network for providing services comprising:
a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises computing resources for supporting one or more services;
a mail server for receiving and routing email; and
a redirector, separate from said mail server, communicatively connected to said mail server and each of said computing elements, wherein said redirector receives email from said mail server and is configured to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements;

wherein said services are controlled by email messages routed by said redirector among said plurality of computing elements.
(emphasis added).

In contrast, Motoyama does not teach or suggest both a "mail server" and "a redirector, separate from said mail server, communicatively connected to said mail server and each of said computing elements, wherein said redirector receives email from said mail server

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and is configured to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements" as claimed. Support for the subject matter now recited in claim 1 can be found in Applicant's specification as originally filed at, for example, Figs. 5 and 7, each of which show the separate mail server and redirector as claimed.

The final Office Action cites Motoyama at col. 6, line 58 *et seq.* This portion of Motoyama merely describes assigning an email address to the various devices shown in Fig. 1 (e.g., printer (32), fax machine (28), etc.). In pertinent part, the cited portion of Motoyama states:

FIG. 5 illustrates a flowchart containing a process which is performed for a new machine such as a business office device in order to have it properly recognized by diagnostic, monitoring, and control equipment. After starting, step 250 has a user or device assign a name and address to the machine. In order for the device to transmit or receive communications, it is necessary to know where to send the communication and from where the communication originates. Step 252 stores the name and address in the semi-static state memory such as the flash memory 178 or the disk 182 illustrated in FIG. 3. This information is used both for a connection-mode of communication via a telephone or ISDN line, a connectionless-mode of communication such as using a conventional Internet electronic mail protocol, and also to have communication to the machine for ordinary purposes such as using the digital copier/printer for printing jobs via the local area network.

Once the information for the machine has been determined and then stored in step 252, it is necessary to register this information so that other devices will be able to access the machine. Therefore, the name and address of this device are registered in a mail server, for example, which will send and receive electronic mail for the network to which the mail server is connected. It is also desirable to register the machine as part of the local area network. Further, the monitoring devices to which the machine transmits messages are registered with the machine. Last, the machine is registered with a computer of a customer service department or other remote monitoring, controlling and/or diagnosing computer in order for the remote device to properly monitor and be aware of the existence of the machine. Step 256 sends a message to a service department or one of the other divisions illustrated in FIG. 1 in order to register the name, address, model number, serial number, or other information and capabilities of the machine in the customer service or another type of data base.

Motoyama at col. 6, line 58 *et seq.*

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Thus, Motoyama does not teach or suggest both a mail server and a redirector that serves as a proxy as claimed. Rather, Motoyama describes a system, without a redirector, in which devices are each assigned an address, and email is routed through a mail server directly to or from the addressed device. There is no mention or suggestion of a device, such as the claimed redirector, that serves as a "proxy" for the various devices

"A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Consequently, because Motoyama fails to teach or suggest the claimed "redirector," or method using the same, any proposed rejection of claims 1-10 and 22-26 based on Motoyama should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent claim 11 recites:

A method of providing services with a computer network that comprises a plurality of computing elements each of which comprise computing resources for supporting one or more services, and a redirector, communicatively connected to each of said computing elements; said method comprising:

receiving an e-mail message addressed to said redirector as proxy for said computing elements, said message being configured for controlling a service on one of said computing elements; and

routing at least some of said e-mail message to a corresponding computing element with said redirector that is configured to function as an e-mail proxy for said computing elements.

(emphasis added).

In contrast, Motoyama does not teach or suggest the claimed method in which a redirector receives email messages "*addressed to said redirector as proxy for said computing elements.*" As demonstrated above, Motoyama merely teaches a traditional mail server that receives messages addressed to specific devices and routes those messages to the devices

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addressed. Motoyama does not teach or suggest the concept of a proxy such as the claimed redirector that receives email addressed to the redirector and then routes at least some of that message to a corresponding computing element.

Again, "[a] claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Consequently, because Motoyama fails to teach or suggest the claimed "redirector," or method using the same, the rejection of claims 11-21 based on Motoyama should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent claim 26 recites:

A computer network for providing services comprising:
a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises computing resources for supporting one or more services; and
a service handler on at least one of said computing elements for obtaining a service using an incoming email and loading and invoking that service on the computing element corresponding to the service handler.

The outstanding final Office Action rejected claim 26 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the combined teachings of Motoyama and U.S. Patent No. 6,480,901 to Weber et al ("Weber"). However, even though claim 26 is an independent claim, the final Office Action did not specifically address claim 26 and does not explain where or how Motoyama and Weber teach all the features of claim 26 and how or why the teachings of Motoyama and Weber can be combined to approximate the subject matter of claim 26. Consequently, no *prima facie* case of unpatentability has yet been made for claim 26 and its dependent claims. Thus, examination and allowance of claims 26-29 is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on August 9, 2005.
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